American HRW No. 2 wheat quoted in Kansas City Board Exchange on 21-8-1987 was US$ 110.6 per tonnes FOB US Gulf including premium for immediate delivery whereas the price for Argentinan wheat quoted was US$ 85 FOB for certain specified delivery months. The actual transaction prices are, however, often at variance with the prices quoted in exchange. No bottom level price for the purpose of exports of wheat has been fixed by the Government. Exports of wheat have been allowed by the Government within a limited ceiling during 1987-88. Wheat has been exported to Nepal and DPRK during 1987-88 by STC at internationally competitive prices, the actual realisations being as per the contract prices which are on FOB basis.

2. A contract has been signed by MMTC with M/s Korea Cereals Export and Import Corporation for export of 1 lakh tonnes of wheat for shipment during 1987-88, against payment in free foreign exchange. The price has been negotiated taking into account the prevailing international prices and other factors including cost of servicing the order. A commission which is within the RBI guidelines is to be paid to M/s. Texuna International Ltd., Hong Kong for securing the business at attractive price and for coordinating the smooth implementation of the contract. The commission will be payable on realisation of export proceeds from DPRK buyers for each shipment. While mode of remittance to foreign agents, through whom orders are secured and service is laid down by the Reserve Bank of India, there is no statute or rule laying down the norms to be followed for appointment of agents in the case of exports. Agents are appointed based on the requirements of the business.

P.M.'s Foreign Tours

*411. SHRI F.M. KHAN: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) what are the names of the countries visited by the Prime Minister during th last six months;

(b) what was the purpose of the visits;

(c) what was the nature of talks held witn the heads of each country and what is the outcome thereof; and

(d) what is the expenditure incurred on each visit and what was the number of persons who accompanied him?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI EDUARDO FALEIRO): (a) (i) Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

(ii) Sri Lanka.

(b) (i) To inaugurate the Festival of India in the USSR.

(ii) To sign an Indo-Sri Lanka Agreement to establish peace and normalcy in Sri Lanka.

(c) (i) Prime Minister had two rounds of tetee-tate with General Secretary of CPSU Mr. Mikhail Sergeyvich Gorbachev and a round of talks with Soviet Prime Minister Nokolai A. Ryzhkov. These talks covered exchange of views on bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest and concern and revealed close proximity or identity of perceptions of the two sides. Measures were also identified for strengthening of bilateral relations. Prime Minister Shri Rajiv Gandhi and General Secretary of CPSU Mr. M. S. Gorbachev signed Integrated Long-Term Programme of Cooperation in Science & Technology.

(ii) Prime Minister had a round of bilateral talks on the 29th July, 1987, with President J.R. Jayewardene before the signing of the Indo-Sri Lanka agreement on the same day.

(d) The expenditure incurred during these visits is being worked out.